

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING

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**DFEH ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**

SACRAMENTO -- Dia S. Poole was appointed by Governor Gray Davis as deputy director of public affairs and external communications for the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), effective April 10, 2000. Prior to joining DFEH, Ms. Poole served as a senior policy consultant to California State Assembly Speaker Antonio R. Villaraigosa at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

Ms. Poole began her career in public service with the County of San Bernardino in 1981 in information systems. A passionate community service advocate, she produced, hosted, and reported for several radio and television public affairs programs in the Inland Empire and Los Angeles that were geared toward youth and minority communities. In 1994, she took a year-long leave of absence from the County to complete the prestigious California Legislature Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program in the State Capitol office of Assemblywoman (now Congresswoman) Barbara Lee of Oakland, chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

At the completion of the fellowship, she elected to remain in Sacramento as the staff director for the Caucus until November of 1997. Her responsibilities centered on public affairs and media relations, legislative and public policy research, special hearings, and cultural observances that addressed issues of importance and highlighted the contributions of California's African-American communities. In addition to administering the operations of the Caucus, Ms. Poole represented the Caucus at public functions and meetings with legislators, legislative staff, VIP guests, lobbyists, youth and constituent groups, and served as liaison to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), the NBCSL African American Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.

The primary focus of the deputy director of public affairs and external communications is to plan, organize, and direct the Department's media and outreach functions and serve as principal communications advisor to DFEH director Dennis Hayashi.

Ms. Poole graduated from California State University San Bernardino and San Bernardino Valley College with degrees in business and information management and has completed graduate courses in government and public policy at California State University Sacramento.

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